

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed sheets 1/2 and 2/2, inclusive, each labeled "Replacement Sheet", for the corresponding sheets presently in the case.

In Figure 3, reference numeral "54a" and its associated lead line was deleted.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted with an RCE Application.

Presently claims 1, 2 and 8 – 24 are pending. Claims 3 – 7 are withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stojanovski (U.S. 6,301,977) in view of Scott et al. (U.S. 5,941,601).

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish over the art of record.

Specifically, claim 1 now recites *“An apparatus for measuring a cinching tension on a child seat placed on a bottom cushion of a vehicle seat, said vehicle seat having a pressure sensor disposed therein operative to monitor the weight of an occupant and to provide an occupant weight output signal to an occupant detection system electronic control unit, said child seat having first and second tether straps affixed thereto for cinching said child seat to said vehicle seat independently of an occupant restraining seat belt system associated with said vehicle seat, said apparatus comprising: ... a first tension sensor securing said first child seat anchor bracket to a first end of said anchor frame, and a second tension sensor securing said second child seat anchor bracket to a second end of said anchor frame, said first and second tension sensors each providing a discrete output signal to said occupant detection system electronic control unit.”*

Neither of the references, alone or in combination discloses or suggests the usage of one or more tension sensors in combination with an occupant seat pressure sensor to provide discrete inputs to a host vehicle occupant detection system ecu.

Stojanovski discloses a transducer incorporated into the existing occupant restraining seat belt system whose belt 12 is employed for strapping a child's seat 14 on a car seat 16.

Scott et al. does not disclose or suggest any form of tension sensor.

Thus amended, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2 are clearly distinguishable from both Stojanovski and Scott et al..

New claims 8 – 24 are similarly distinguishable from the art of record.

Conclusion

Applicants believe, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Gordon Lewis

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